

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner objected to a priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120. It is now understood that the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/408,621, was unintentionally abandoned prior to the filing of the present application, disrupting the continuity between the present application and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/104,218. Accordingly, Applicants will be filing a Petition to Revive U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/408,621 as unintentionally abandoned.

The Amendment mailed on May 31, 2002, was submitted with a Petition for Extension of Time to June 5, 2002, incorrectly captioned as relating to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/408,621. Being filed herewith is a corrected Petition for Extension of Time to June 5, 2002. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 10, 2002

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